

[AOSR] Position Statement of the Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology on Radiologists as Clinicians

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The Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology (AOSR) recognizes the evolving role of radiologists within the healthcare system and firmly asserts that radiologists are integral and indispensable members of the clinical team. As an organization dedicated to promoting excellence in radiology, we emphasize the importance of recognizing radiologists as clinicians.

Radiologists are medical doctors by training, and clinical exposure has been integrated into the radiology training program in many countries. Radiologists play a pivotal role in patient care by integrating patients' information through critical thinking and clinical examinations, contributing to the clinical decision-making process by providing crucial diagnostic and therapeutic insights.

The AOSR acknowledges that radiologists possess a unique skill set that allows them to contribute to patient management beyond image interpretation. Radiologists are well trained professionals in the comprehensive understanding of disease processes, the application of different imaging modalities, and the integration of imaging findings into the clinical context. This knowledge equips them to provide effective clinical consultations and collaborate efficiently with other healthcare professionals.

Furthermore, radiologists should actively participate in multidisciplinary team meetings and tumor boards, where their expertise can contribute to treatment planning and patient management strategies which in turn ensures the best possible care is provided to patients. They can also act as liaison between different specialties, facilitating effective communication and coordination of care.

For interventional radiologists, the clinical component is even more crucial, which includes but is not limited to pre-procedural consultation, obtaining consent, post-procedure ward and out-patient follow-up. Rapport building is also essential which could minimize the damage in some medico-legal cases.

The AOSR advocates for the recognition of radiologists as clinicians within healthcare systems. We urge healthcare authorities and hospital administrators to acknowledge the critical role of radiologists in patient care and to provide appropriate resources and support to enhance their professional development.

In summary, the Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology firmly believes that radiologists are clinicians and their clinical role should be well recognized. Healthcare authorities should provide the necessary resources and support, so that radiologists can optimize patient care, enhance interdisciplinary collaboration, and advance the field of radiology.

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